

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SP-02 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5045
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2295

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC, USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, US
SUBJ: MORE ON THE FORGED STATE DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM

REF: ATHENS 2246

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: ALL SUNDAY (MORNING ONLY) NEWS-
PAPERS CARRIED THE REPORT, BASED ON THE GOG SPOKESMAN'S
SATURDAY NIGHT PRESS BRIEFING, THAT THE GOG HAD QUERIED
WASHINGTON ABOUT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE ALLEGED TELEGRAM
TABLED BY PAPANDREOU IN PARLIAMENT MARCH 17. SUB-
SEQUENTLY, ON SUNDAY EVENING, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS ISSUED A STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS, ACCORDING TO THE
MARCH 20 SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (ANA) BULLETIN:
"THE GOVERNMENT REQUESTED CLARIFICATIONS IN CONNECTION
WITH THE TELEGRAM ATTRIBUTED TO DR.KISSINGER WHICH
MR. PAPANDREOU SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT. THE AMERICAN
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GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN THE FOLLOWING REPLY: "THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE USA CONFIRMS THAT STATEMENT
ISSUED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ATHENS ACCORDING
TO WHICH THE TELEGRAM IS A FORGERY."

2. THE ANA BULLETIN TODAY ALSO CARRIES A STATEMENT
ISSUED LAST NIGHT BY PAPANDREOU IN REPLY TO THE

ABOVE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT. PAPANDREOU STATED THE FOLLOWING: "I READ OUT THE TEXT IN PARLIAMENT BECAUSE I WAS AND REMAIN COMPLETELY CONVINCED THAT IT WAS GENUINE. HOWEVER, AS I DO NOT HAVE AT MY DISPOSAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE TECHNICAL EXAMINATION OF THE GENUINENESS OF THE DOCUMENT, I REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT TO DO SO. THE GOVERNMENT SETTLED THE MATTER BY REFERRING IT TO THE SENDERS OF THE TELEGRAM. I AM AFRAID THAT IT IS A MISTAKE TO RELY ON THE PERPETRATORS OF A CRIME IN ORDER TO CONFIRM IT." END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL : COMMENT: WE WERE UNAWARE THAT THE GOG HAD INSTRUCTED ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO QUERY THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE ALLEGED TELEGRAM UNTIL WE SAW THE REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT IN THE NEWSPAPERS. WHEN WE CALLED THE MFA SUNDAY MORNING TO ASK WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT, SINCE NO SUCH REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE TO US AND, TO THE CONTRARY, GOG OFFICIALS HAD EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION TO US FRIDAY NIGHT OVER THE EMBASSY'S STATEMENT (ATHENS 2243), THE MFA OFFICIAL WE QUERIED SAID THAT THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN SO THAT THE MFA WOULD HAVE ON RECORD IN ITS OWN FILES EVIDENCE THAT THE GOG HAD CHECKED WITH THE USG ABOUT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE ALLEGED 1976 STATE DEPARTMENT TELEGRAM. AS IT CONFIDENTIAL

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TURNED OUT, HE CONTINUED, THE GREEK EMBASSY HAD ALREADY CHECKED WITH THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE RECEIVING THIS INSTRUCTION AND REPORTED THE DEPARTMENT'S CONFIRMATION OF THE EMBASSY'S STATEMENT THAT THE ALLEGED TELEGRAM WAS A FORGERY.

4. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE WERE ABLE TO GET OUT OUR STATEMENT QUICKLY. ALTHOUGH WE WERE CERTAINLY UNABLE TO CONVINCE EVERYBODY THT PAPANDREOU WAS PEDDLING A FORGERY, WE DID CONVINCE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF INFLUENTIAL GREEKS AND OPINION MOLDERS SO THAT WE WERE ABLE TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE.MCCLOSKEY

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